

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 IO-14 NEA-10 ARA-14 /137 W
-----122733 061328Z /43

R 061110Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0922
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 1671

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MA, KN, PEPR, PDIP
SUBJECT: RATSIRAKA'S TRIP TO NORTH KOREA

REF: ANTANANARIVO 1659

1. ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA ON HIS SEPTEMBER 5 DEPARTURE FOR NORTH KOREA WERE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, ECONOMY, INFORMATION, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND ANOTHER MEMBER OF SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

2. SPEAKING TO PRESS AT AIRPORT JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, PRESIDENT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) AS KIM IL SUNG, HIS BROTHER, HAD SENT SPECIAL
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AIRCRAFT, THE LEAST HE (RATSIRAKA) COULD DO WAS AGREE TO ATTEND 30TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES OF PYONGYANG REGIME;

B) OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE TAKEN TO REINFORCE RELATIONS IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS, AND TO "TUNE UP OUR VIOLINS" IN PREPARATION FOR NON-ALIGNED

SUMMIT MEETING IN CUBA;

C) HE DID NOT YET KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES AFTER NORTH KOREA. "YOU WILL FIND OUT LATER."

D) CAMP DAVID TALKS: BEGIN AND SADAT ARE IN THEIR FULL RIGHTS IN DISCUSSING DIPLOMATIC QUESTIONS BETWEEN THEM, WITH OR WITHOUT PRESIDENT CARTER. BUT NO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT CAN BE ARRIVED AT WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS.

3. REST OF INTERVIEW CONCERNED INTERNAL SITUATION. RATSIRAKA CRITICIZED SOME MALAGASY FOR NOT HAVING COURAGE TO PUT UP WITH SHORTAGES AND OTHER TRIBULATIONS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE REVOLUTION. HE COMPARED MALAGASY UNFAVORABLY WITH MOZAMBIQUANS WHO WAIT FOR FOUR DAYS IN LINE TO BUY A LITTLE OIL OR WITH VIETNAMESE WHO FOUGHT FOR 25 YEARS AGAINST FRENCH AND AMERICANS. HE DENOUNCED SABOTAGE AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR SHORTAGES, AND HAD EVEN CAUSED DERAILMENT OF A FUEL SHIPMENT FROM COAST, AND APPEALED FOR RENEWED VIGILANCE AGAINST IMPERIALISTS. BARRETT

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